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## Raccoon mangled by trap: reward for information issued

*Non-profit wants residents to help find the truth behind disturbing case*

**ABBOTSFORD** – The painful final days of an Abbotsford-area raccoon was caused directly by human action and a BC-based non-profit wants to find the truth of what happened.

The Fur-Bearers, a wildlife protection group, have put a \$1,000 reward on the table for information leading to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible should investigation prove the trapping of the raccoon was illegal.

After someone saw the raccoon in a tree in the Mount Leham area, the raccoon was taken in by Coastal Rivers Pet Hospital in the final week of August. Critter Care Wildlife Society also aided in the treatment – however, despite efforts to numb pain and ultimately amputate a damaged paw, the severity of the injury forced humane euthanasia.

“No animal should suffer like this, and we want to find out what the circumstances were that led to this upsetting incident,” says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Fur-Bearers. “This isn’t the first time we’ve seen or heard of local wildlife severely injured or killed by traps in the Abbotsford area, and it’s vital that people learn the truth about these traps.”

The Fur-Bearers note that the use of leg-hold or body-gripping traps is never a humane solution to conflict with wildlife. Humane wildlife removal companies will have references and explanations as to what tools they do or do not use. Residents can also turn to the BC SPCA’s AnimalKind program to find a humane option.

“This is deeply disturbing to us and everyone involved – and we know that the community of Abbotsford will find it disturbing, too,” Fox says.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277.

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The Fur-Bearers was formed in 1953 to advocate for fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement. The wildlife protection group has successfully worked with municipalities and landowners across Canada to promote co-existence and provide in-field solutions to conflict. They are based in British Columbia.

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